

SENATE BILL 284

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11r0117

By: **Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request – Departmental – Education)**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2011

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – High School Graduation Records – Collection, Maintenance,**
3 **Analysis, and Reporting**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the Maryland high school graduation rate formula and
5 ethnic and racial categories in the formula to be consistent with certain federal
6 regulations and guidelines; defining a certain term; repealing a certain annual
7 reporting requirement; and generally relating to the collection, maintenance,
8 analysis, and reporting of Maryland high school graduation records.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Education
11 Section 7–203.2
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Education**

17 7–203.2.

18 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

19 (2) (i) [“Four–year cohort” means a group of students who enter
20 ninth grade together.] **“FOUR–YEAR ADJUSTED COHORT” MEANS A GROUP OF**
21 **STUDENTS WHO ARE ENTERING THE NINTH GRADE FOR THE FIRST TIME FROM A**
22 **COHORT THAT IS SUBSEQUENTLY ADJUSTED BY ADDING ANY STUDENTS WHO**
23 **TRANSFER INTO THE COHORT LATER DURING THE NINTH GRADE AND THE NEXT**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **THREE YEARS AND SUBTRACTING ANY STUDENTS WHO TRANSFER OUT,**
2 **EMIGRATE TO ANOTHER COUNTRY, OR DIE DURING THAT SAME PERIOD.**

3 (ii) “Four–year **ADJUSTED** cohort” also includes [a student who:

4 1. Transfers into the group:

5 A. During the ninth grade of the group’s first year in
6 high school;

7 B. During the tenth grade of the group’s second year in
8 high school;

9 C. During the eleventh grade of the group’s third year in
10 high school; or

11 D. During the twelfth grade of the group’s fourth year in
12 high school;

13 2. Is retained in grade; or

14 3. Is enrolled in a GED program.

15 (iii) “Four–year cohort” does not include a student who:

16 1. Dies before graduation;

17 2. Transfers out of the group; or

18 3. The county board confirms has permanently left the
19 United States.

20 (iv) Students] **STUDENTS** retained in grade [are] **AND** only
21 counted once as members of their original cohort.

22 (3) “Graduation rate” means the percentage obtained from applying
23 the graduation rate formula.

24 (4) (i) “Graduation rate formula” means the number of students
25 who graduate on time with a Maryland high school diploma divided by the number of
26 students in the four–year **ADJUSTED** cohort.

27 (ii) “Graduation rate formula” does not include students who
28 graduate on time with a GED or other certificate not aligned with State standards.

29 (5) (i) “On time” means on or before the conclusion of a four–year
30 **ADJUSTED** cohort’s fourth year of high school.

1 (ii) "On time" includes a senior summer session in a jurisdiction
2 that offers senior summer sessions.

3 (6) (i) "Transfer out" means a student who the county board
4 confirms, via written documentation, has enrolled in another high school or other
5 educational program from which that student is expected to receive a Maryland high
6 school diploma.

7 (ii) "Transfer out" does not include a student enrolled in:

8 1. A GED program; or

9 2. An alternative education program that does not issue
10 or provide credits toward a Maryland high school diploma.

11 (b) The purpose of this section is to:

12 (1) Initiate a process by which the State may achieve the goal of
13 collecting, maintaining, analyzing, and publicly reporting data relating to the
14 graduation rates of students in public high schools as an essential step in addressing
15 gaps in educational achievement among a diverse student population; and

16 (2) Explicitly delineate the duties and responsibilities of the
17 Department and the county boards in this regard.

18 (c) (1) Beginning on or before September 1, 2011, and each year
19 thereafter, a county board shall:

20 (i) Collect, maintain, and analyze graduation rates for public
21 schools, local school systems, and the State; and

22 (ii) Report the information required under item (i) of this
23 paragraph to[:

24 1. The public] **THE PUBLIC AND THE DEPARTMENT** in
25 the aggregate and disaggregated by [American Indian, African American, Hispanic,
26 White, Asian/Pacific Islander, students who are limited English proficient, students
27 who receive free and reduced priced meals, and students who receive special education
28 services; and

29 2. The Department]:

30 1. **HISPANIC OR LATINO OF ANY RACE;**

31 2. **FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NONHISPANIC OR**
32 **NONLATINO ONLY:**

- 1 **A. AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE;**
- 2 **B. ASIAN;**
- 3 **C. BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN;**
- 4 **D. NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER;**
- 5 **E. WHITE; OR**
- 6 **F. TWO OR MORE RACES;**
- 7 **3. STUDENTS WHO ARE LIMITED ENGLISH**
- 8 **PROFICIENT;**
- 9 **4. STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE FREE AND REDUCED**
- 10 **PRICED MEALS; AND**
- 11 **5. STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION**
- 12 **SERVICES.**

13 (2) Beginning on or before October 1, 2011, and each year thereafter,
 14 the Department shall:

15 (i) Compile the information received under paragraph (1) of
 16 this subsection and calculate a graduation rate for the State; and

17 (ii) Post the information obtained under this subsection for each
 18 county on its website in the aggregate and disaggregated by [American Indian, African
 19 American, Hispanic, White, Asian/Pacific Islander, students who are limited English
 20 proficient, students who receive free and reduced priced meals, and students who
 21 receive special education services]:

- 22 **1. HISPANIC OR LATINO OF ANY RACE;**
- 23 **2. FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NONHISPANIC OR**
- 24 **NONLATINO ONLY:**
- 25 **A. AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE;**
- 26 **B. ASIAN;**
- 27 **C. BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN;**

- 1 **D. NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER;**
 2 **E. WHITE; OR**
 3 **F. TWO OR MORE RACES;**
 4 **3. STUDENTS WHO ARE LIMITED ENGLISH**
 5 **PROFICIENT;**
 6 **4. STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE FREE AND REDUCED**
 7 **PRICED MEALS; AND**
 8 **5. STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION**
 9 **SERVICES.**

10 (d) (1) The county boards and the Department may develop and
 11 implement additional indicators to collect, maintain, analyze, and publicly report data
 12 regarding alternative high school completions.

13 (2) The Department shall ensure that the information collected under
 14 paragraph (1) of this subsection is comparable for public schools and local school
 15 systems in the State.

16 (e) The Department shall:

17 (1) Implement training for administrators and other personnel
 18 responsible for collecting, maintaining, analyzing, and publicly reporting data
 19 regarding four-year **ADJUSTED** cohorts and graduation rates;

20 (2) Implement a standard process for verifying the accuracy of data
 21 including:

22 (i) Statistical checks and analyses; and

23 (ii) On-site audits of record-keeping procedures;

24 (3) Implement a public awareness campaign including outreach to
 25 civic associations, community-based groups, and parent organizations and the
 26 solicitation of suggestions and community support regarding the need for collecting,
 27 maintaining, analyzing, and publicly reporting accurate data regarding four-year
 28 **ADJUSTED** cohorts and graduation rates;

29 (4) Provide technical support to the county boards with collecting,
 30 maintaining, analyzing, and publicly reporting graduation rate data; and

31 (5) Serve as a central repository for this data.

1 【(f) (1) On or before November 1 of each year, the State Board shall report
2 to the Governor and, subject to § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, to the
3 General Assembly, regarding:

4 (i) The implementation of this section;

5 (ii) Statistical analyses and data verification processes
6 developed under this section; and

7 (iii) Discrepancies discovered while collecting, maintaining,
8 analyzing, and publicly reporting the information required under this section.

9 (2) The report required under this subsection shall be posted on the
10 Department's website.】

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 July 1, 2011.